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IDHS RELEASES DRAFT PANDEMIC INFLUENZA RESPONSE PLAN

Indianapolis – The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has completed and distributed a draft pandemic influenza response plan. The draft plan marks the latest step in Indiana's pandemic influenza preparedness efforts.

"The response to a human influenza pandemic will require the involvement of many different agencies and disciplines," said J. Eric Dietz, Executive Director of IDHS. "This draft plan provides a framework for a coordinated state response."

The three-phase plan breaks down the roles and responsibilities of various agencies in the event of an influenza pandemic. As with all IDHS "OPLANs," this plan was developed through collaboration with members of the state Homeland Security Team. This team includes representatives from several state agencies, including the State Department of Health, the State Board of Animal Health, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Environmental Management.

The draft plan has also been sent to local Emergency Management Agency Directors, who will not only review the plan, but can also use the plan as a guide for developing their own county-specific response plans in the coming months.

"The importance of creating effective plans in each individual county will be critical to the response to an influenza pandemic," said Dietz. "Different agencies must work together at the local level as they have at the state level in order to minimize the consequences of a pandemic as much as possible."

The draft plan has been posted and can be viewed on the state's flu information Web site at www.fluinfo.in.gov.

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